



FRESNO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

John Zanoni, Sheriff

**Ag Task Force
Det. I. Torres / CHP Inv. P. Cortez
Date: June 7, 2023**

*******INFORMATION ONLY ANIMAL RIGHTS ACTIVIST GROUP*******

DIRECT ACTION EVERYWHERE (DXE)



During the week of Friday, June 9, 2023, through Wednesday, June 14, 2023, animal rights activist group Direct Action Everywhere (DXE) plans to host its Animal Liberation Conference (ALC) in Berkeley, CA. The conference's objective is to "bring together the most dedicated and motivated animal rights activists from around the world and empower the attendees to take bold, collective action to achieve revolutionary social and political change for animals!" During the conference, DXE will bus conference attendees/extremists to a nearby facility for an "open rescue."

Farming operations in California should review their security protocols in anticipation of potential activity leading up to, during, and after the ALC conference. As of today, there are no known specific protest events planned in Fresno County. However, livestock/dairy farming operations must be aware of DXE's covert operations, intelligence gathering methods like imposter employees applying for employment, and animal rescues that may occur during the day or night. Farming operations must be vigilant by checking their farming operations for suspicious activity/persons. AGTF, in conjunction with the Fresno County Farm Bureau (FCFB), will notify FCFB members of the upcoming potential DXE activity/protests and report anything suspicious to law enforcement. The following is a syllabus for conference events:

- On Sunday, June 11, 2023, DXE activist/Legal counsel Wayne Hsiung will host a workshop during the conference called "The Open Rescue Experience."
- On Tuesday, June 13, 2023, the conference agenda included a "training and action" at an undisclosed location.
- DXE has hosted "open rescue" workshops in Arizona, New York, Nevada, Utah, Oregon, and California, so it is possible that extremist activity could occur across the country during the week of this conference.

History of Direct Action Everywhere (DXE):

International Animal Rights Activist Group was established in 2013. This DXE chapter is based out of the San Francisco Bay Area. DXE's ultimate political agenda is to change policy towards consuming animals as food and total animal liberation. DXE protest history - Usually hold protests at local grocery stores; during YouTube videos, only a handful of protesters are observed; usually, non-violent demonstrations at grocery stores, and the protesters will read scripted speeches in view of their video cameras.

If DXE members/vehicles are contacted at your farming operations, please contact the Fresno County Sheriff's Dispatch (559) 600-3111. If you have any questions, please call the Fresno County Sheriff's Ag Task Force (559) 600-8150 during normal business hours, by email - agcrimes@fresnosheriff.org, or contact Det. Isaac Torres cell 559-647-7246.

Preparing for and Handling Trespassers, Activists, Drones & Social Media

Tips for Preparing for Trespassers

Take Precautions Before an Incident Occurs

- Post "No Trespassing" signs on your property. You must have signs that list the proper penal codes posted on your property warning against trespassing in order for law enforcement to make charges. Signs can be purchased from the [Farm Bureau](#). For more information, call toll-free, 800-698-FARM or e-mail cfbf@cfbf.com.
 - PENAL CODE 554.1
 - Trespassing signs on property more than 1 acre and not fenced should be placed less than 600 feet along all perimeters.
 - PENAL CODE 553
 - The signs must be 1 foot in area. The letters must not be less than 2 inches in height and must state "trespassing - loitering forbidden by law" or words describing the use of property (e.g. "Dairy Facility") followed by "no trespassing."
 - Here is an example:



- Install perimeter gates. Other than the main gate, ideally all perimeter roads should be secured with gates, chains or cables to hamper vehicular access. This also helps prevent theft of equipment, metal, calves etc.
- Ask the Sheriff's office to conduct a safety check on your dairy to identify any areas that could be better secured or have better signage.
- Train family (animal rights activists occasionally protest outside of company executives' homes) and employees and empower them to investigate anyone they don't recognize on the dairy and to immediately call the Sheriff's office if they don't have business on the facility. It's a good idea to run through protocols with employees on a regular basis to reinforce how to handle trespass and conflict. It may also be helpful to familiarize with [protesters' rights](#) so you know what is legal.
- If you become aware of a potential protest in the area, alerts the Sheriff's office to help ensure that they are prepared to support you.

- Ensure that all of your employees have signed a “See it? Stop It!” employee agreement that states that they are obligated to immediately contact their supervisor if they witness a deliberate act of animal abuse, neglect, harm or mishandling. The agreement can be download here:
 - [English Employee Agreement](#)
 - [Spanish Employee Agreement](#)

Take These Immediate Actions

- Alert all of your employees to the situation and advise them to be on the lookout for individuals near or on your property. Direct your employees to first notify the Sheriff and then notify you immediately if they see any suspicious individuals near the dairy.
- Contact your local law enforcement officials to alert them to this situation and ask about filing a Will Serve Trespass Letter for your dairy with their department. Producers should notify not only their local sheriffs, but the California Highway Patrol (CHP) who handles matters related to ALL county roadways, including traffic accidents and blocked roadways.
 - **NOTE:** If there are drones, prior to law enforcement’s arrival, the producers should try to obtain the location of where they observed the person operating the aircraft and of the person’s physical and clothing descriptions. This information will help law enforcement in identifying the aircraft but most importantly identify the person flying the aircraft.
- **Ensure that you are continuing to uphold the best management practices outlined in the [FARM \(Farmers Assuring Responsible Management\)](#) program.**

Tips for Dealing with Onsite Trespassers and Activists

If You Encounter Suspicious Individuals on Your Property

- **DO** report to local law enforcement immediately by calling 911 and asking for a response by the local Sheriff or police.
- **DO** learn who the suspicious individuals are and what their concerns are in a **respectful manner**.
- **DO** ask to see the individuals’ credentials if you suspect they may be impersonating government employees such as members of the USDA or if they claim to be seeking employment.
- **DO NOT** be combative. Remember, the trespassers may be videotaping you.
- **DO NOT** have a large group approach these individuals, as this may escalate the situation and bring more attention to their cause. Also, avoid gathering a large group of observers, even from a distance.
- **DO** notify the individuals that they are on private property and ask them to leave. **DO NOT** use force.
- **DO** write down their vehicle’s license plate number.
- **DO** film the activists and their drones – you are legally allowed to do so. Be aware that they will always have cameras/recorders present – even hidden.
- **DO NOT** touch or shoot drones, even if they are flying over your property – that is **ILLEGAL**.
- **DO** let local law enforcement handle the situation if activists refuse to leave.
- **DO** contact your dairy cooperative, state/regional trade association (e.g. Western United Dairymen, Farm Bureau, Milk Producers Council, California Dairy Campaign, Dairy Cares, etc.) to alert them of the situation.

Keys for Dealing with Activists

- **Don't Be Used**
 - Animal rights activists have a strategy to reach their goals. They want to gain attention for their cause, gain supporters and receive funding through donations from the supporters to whom they appeal.
 - What are their methods to reaching their goals? They appeal to the emotions of their followers, create controversy, document and record it for promotion and publication through media.
 - Let law enforcement handle the incident. If activists leave your facility but remain on a nearby public easement (county road right-of-way) the sheriff's officers will explain to the activists where they can be positioned and how they must conduct themselves. Ask the officers to take a full report.
- **Don't Be Used In Their Methods**
 - In order to gain free publicity, activists want you to lose your cool, get emotional, angry, speak out and act out. The larger the crowd, the bigger the spectacle. The more comments and shares on social media, the more attention the activists and their cause will receive.

Tips for Dealing with Drones

If You See a Drone Flying Overhead on Your Property

- **DO** contact local law enforcement to begin a dialog and ask for their recommendations.
- **DO** post "no trespassing" signs on your property.
- **Do** contact authorities beyond local law enforcement, such as the FBI or FAA, if necessary. Operation of drones at lower levels (as opposed to higher altitudes that are managed by the FAA) is generally overseen by state and/or local authorities with varying privacy and enforcement provisions. If you encounter a similar issue and local authorities are not able to help, the FBI oversees agroterrorism and the closest field office will be able to provide assistance.
- **DO NOT** use force or touch/shoot the drones. The FAA classifies Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) – or drones – as aircraft. In some jurisdictions, willfully shooting at an aircraft is punishable by up to 20 years in jail. The FAA has jurisdiction above ground, and local authorities can only take action if the drone is peeking into your house.
- **DO** take photographs and videotape the drone, if possible.
- **DO** try to get any serial numbers you can find on the drone (if you can get close enough), because the FAA requires owners of drones between .55 lbs. and 55 lbs. to register their crafts.
- **DO** approach any vehicles that may be near your property to learn who they are and what their business is near your property in a **respectful manner**.
- **DO** film the activists and their drones – you are legally allowed to do so. Be aware that they will always have cameras/recorders present – even hidden.
- **DO** contact your dairy cooperative, state/regional trade association (e.g. Western United Dairymen, Farm Bureau, Milk Producers Council, California Dairy Campaign, Dairy Cares, etc.) to alert them of the situation.

Additional Resources for Dealing with Drones

- The FAA Assistance program can help you inform your local authorities of illegal drone violations. Contact the program through email at UAShelp@faa.gov or call 844-FLY-MY-UA. https://www.faa.gov/uas/public_safety_gov/contacts/
- Drones must not be flown beyond the visual line of sight of the operator. A person must have a waiver to fly beyond the visual line of sight with unaided vision according to part 107 section

107.31. Once a drone has been flown at a certain point over a farm, property or into a building, the operator may no longer have visibility, therefore possibly violating FAA regulations. If this is the case, then call 844-FLY-MY-UA.

- The FAA provides "No Drone Zone" signage to post in prohibited areas.
https://www.faa.gov/uas/where_to_fly/no_drone_zone/
- The FAA provides a "Public Safety and Law Enforcement Toolkit" which gives information on how law enforcement and public safety entities can handle drone or UAS related situations.
https://www.faa.gov/uas/public_safety_gov/public_safety_toolkit/
- Review the Alliance's general farm security and employee screening recommendations by visiting <https://animalagalliance.org/resource-center/farm-security-and-crisis-resources/>

Tips for Dealing with Recording Devices

If You Discover Hidden Cameras or Recording Devices at Your Property

- **DO** document them with pictures and a timestamp of discovery.
- **DO** report it to local law enforcement immediately.
- **DO NOT** touch or remove the devices yourself. The evidence is needed to build a case and only law enforcement should remove the devices and document in the proper way admissible in court. If it's proven that recording devices and/or malware were installed and left to transmit data, the investigation could rise to the federal level.

If an Activist(s) or Suspected Employee Helping the Activist is There When the Hidden Devices Are Discovered:

- **DO NOT** let them know you've discovered the devices.
- **DO NOT** be combative with the individual. Remember, you are being recorded.
- **DO** immediately call law enforcement – see above – and inform them you have "reasonable suspicion" of an undercover activist or employee who has implanted hidden cameras/malware and you'd like them to come out before they leave; provide a timeline of how long the activist/employee is anticipated being on premises to give law enforcement expectations of your needs; let law enforcement take it from there.
- **DO** contact your dairy cooperative, state/regional trade association (e.g. Western United Dairywomen, Farm Bureau, Milk Producers Council, California Dairy Campaign, Dairy Cares, etc.) to alert them of the situation.

If an Activist(s) or Suspected Employee Helping the Activist Leaves Upon Learning the Hidden Devices are Discovered:

- **DO** write down their vehicle's license plate number and descriptive details.
- **DO** film any interactions with the activist/employee – you are legally allowed to do so.
- **DO** contact your dairy cooperative, state/regional trade association (e.g. Western United Dairywomen, Farm Bureau, Milk Producers Council, California Dairy Campaign, Dairy Cares, etc.) to alert them of the situation.

Social Media Tips

Social Media Tips

- **DO NOT provide free publicity**
 - **DO NOT** give free publicity to activists on social media channels. Refrain from any social media interaction with activists. Often, the social media conversation is limited to the activist community, but when you comment you bring the conversation to your social audience and expand the activists' reach – helping them achieve their goal.
- **DO NOT** respond to derogatory comments. While it is advisable to accept and respond to comments that ask legitimate questions – even if they are challenging – there is no value in allowing comments that are derogatory:
 - Contain racism, bigotry, or hate speech;
 - Doxx (reveal personally identifiable information like phone numbers or addresses);
 - Attack or bully anyone;
 - Derived from a coordinated attack on your channels.
- **DO** mute key terms if you encounter recurring derogatory terms in the comments on your social pages. As the page owner of a Facebook, Instagram, or YouTube page, you have the ability to prevent these types of comments from ever appearing on your pages. To mute specific key terms from your comment section, take the following steps:
 - **Facebook** > Settings
 - A Facebook comment containing one of the keywords you added will be automatically hidden from the comment thread. The only people who can continue to see the comment are the commenter and any of their Facebook connections. This is a handy feature because the commenter and their friends will not know the comment is hidden (so they won't be incited to further action), but no one else will see their words. Their comment will essentially be "contained" where it can do no harm to the rest of your community, and this allows you the time you need to make a decision about whether to block the user from future comments.
 - **Instagram** > Settings > Privacy and Security > Comments > Edit Comment Settings > TYPE keywords, separated by commas
 - Once terms are added to the muted list **on Instagram**, if a commenter uses these terms their comment will never appear.
 - **YouTube Studio** > Settings > Community > Blocked Keywords > TYPE keywords, separated by commas AND/OR Check Block Links to automatically hide all hashtags and URLs
 - **Twitter** > Settings > Privacy and Safety (or content preferences) > Muted > Muted Words (or users) > click "Add," enter one word at a time
 - You can mute key terms or people on Twitter. Others will still be able to see these comments, but they will not appear in your personal Twitter feed. You can add your own keywords to the list, or you can upload [this CSV](#) that has the most commonly used derogatory terms in farming.
- **DO** block users who repeatedly post comments that violate community guidelines (established or common sense). This deletes any comment they have ever left on your page and prevents them from taking any page actions in the future—with the exception of leaving and commenting on page reviews. If you have to ban a large number of users, you may also want to turn Facebook reviews off temporarily, as the activists know this is a backdoor into farmers' pages.

- **Facebook:** First, hide the user's comment. Once hidden, underneath the user's name you will be given the option to ban the user.
- **Instagram:** Beside the user's Instagram name on their page, you will see three dots. Click these dots and select Block User.
- **Twitter:** Beside the user's Twitter name on their page, you will see three dots. Click these dots and select Block User.
- **YouTube:** Add the list of users you would like to permanently hide from your page to YouTube Studio > Settings > Community > Hide Users
- **DO** be aware of potential fake accounts. Some animal rights groups set up fake online accounts from other countries with the intent to harass farmers. Consider blocking these accounts from your page.
 - Facebook > Settings > Country Restrictions
 - Your page will be hidden to users who have registered their page in the banned countries.
- **DO** consider temporarily going dark if necessary. If you are attacked on Facebook and are overwhelmed, you may want to consider unpublishing your page for a few days to let things calm down. Deactivating the ability to for people to "check in" or leave reviews can also help. On Instagram, you can also deactivate comments or go private temporarily.

Tips for Reporting Doxing

If Doxing Occurs

- Report doxing by filing a complaint at ic3.gov. Reporting the incident to IC3 will alert the FBI so if any of the instigators are on their radar already, they have an opportunity to connect them to other victims, which can give them enough to take some action.
- If you have been targeted, file a complaint with the social media platform on which the doxing occurred and report all threats to law enforcement every time.